Whittled into Shape With Nothing but a Jackknite.

Manzanita is about the last kind of wood and a jackknife is the last implement that any professional violin maker would think of employing in the manufacture of such a musical instrument. But there is a violin at North Columbia, Nevada county, owned by Lauren Woodruff, a young merchant of that mining section, which has been constructed entirely, excepting the bridge piece, out of the crooked, hard, brittle and knotty stems of manzanita bushes which grew on the slopes of Nevada county, and the only edged tool used in its manuficture was an ordinary jackknife. The bridge piece was whittled out of a piece of bone.

This violin was constructed by Mr. Woodruff's father, the late A. L. Woodr ff, one of the bestknown men in Nevada county. when living, and a brother of the present president of the Latter Day Saints at Salt Lake, and is an instrument which any musician would be proud to possess, quite as much on account of the fine quality of its tone as because of the peculiar material which has entered into its composition and the strange manner in which it has been made. Woodruff made the visin twenty-five or thirty years ago, during his spare moments from mining, in which pursnit he was then engaged on one of the forks of the Yuba.

The idea of making a violin out of manzanita was an accidental suggestion, and the result of a penchant for whittling. Taking up one day a manzanita stick he began thoughtlessly to whittle and carve it, and as he whittled it seemed naturally to take the form of a fiddle-head. Being gifted with a taste for music and a mechanical genius he decided to add a body to the head of the some material. With no other implement than his big jackknife, he patiently whittled and scraped and polished thin strips out of the city. such manzanita bushes growing around his cabin as suited his purpose. These he carefully joined tog-ther, and bending a sounding-board and back into proper shape, he evolved after many months of patient labor an instrument out of the crude materials which would do credit to any professional violin - maker. For over twenty years this home-made violin has been in constant service, and although it has expeperienced some rough usage, it is today in good condition, while its time is said to be improving with age. Woodruff taught his son to play it, and since his death it has

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